

**Introduced by Senator Wyland**

February 24, 2009

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An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to curriculum.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 234, as introduced, Wyland. Curriculum: oral histories: genocide.

(1) Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to satisfy certain requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. These requirements include the successful passage of the high school exit examination and the completion of designated coursework in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. The coursework requirements include the completion of 3 courses in social studies, including United States history and geography, world history, culture, and geography, a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.

This bill, commencing with the 2010–11 school year, would prohibit a pupil from receiving credit for passing a course in United States history and geography, or in world history, culture, and geography, without exposure in that course to an oral history component, as defined, specifically related to genocides. To the extent that school districts would be required to provide a higher level of service in order for pupils to meet this requirement, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state,

reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988–89 school year, no  
4 pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school who,  
5 while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of the  
6 following:  
7 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
8 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
9 otherwise specified.  
10 (A) Three courses in English.  
11 (B) Two courses in mathematics.  
12 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
13 sciences.  
14 (D) (i) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
15 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
16 one-semester course in American government and civics, and a  
17 one-semester course in economics.  
18 (ii) *Commencing with the 2010–11 school year, a pupil shall*  
19 *not receive credit for passing a course in United States history*  
20 *and geography, or in world history, culture, and geography,*  
21 *without exposure to an oral history component in that course,*  
22 *specifically related to genocides. As used in this clause, “exposure*  
23 *to an oral history component” includes, but is not necessarily*  
24 *limited to, in-person testimony, video, or a multimedia option.*  
25 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
26 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
27 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
28 deemed a course in foreign language.  
29 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
30 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.  
31 (2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school  
32 district may by rule specify.

1 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
2 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
3 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may  
4 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
5 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
6 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
7 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
8 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
9 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
10 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
11 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

12 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.